However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

The State-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

Raid on LPG distributors in Delhi

1208. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of N.C.T. of Delhi has recently raided the premises of a large number of Gas Agencies in the Capital who had been indulging in selling the cylinder in black market;

(b) if so, what are the names of such Agencies which have been found involved in the black market;

(c) whether Government of N.C.T. of Delhi had recommended cancellation of the licences of those agencies; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of N.C.T. of Delhi has reported that four LPG Distributorship of N.C.T. of Delhi, namely M/s Usha Gas Service, M/s Banaras Gas Agency, M/s Rakant Enterprises and M/s Shyamji Enterprises were allegedly found involved in black marketing.

(c) and (d) Government of N.C.T. of Delhi has also reported that they have taken up the matter with the concerned authority for taking necessary action.

Consequences of rise in price of petrol and diesel

1209. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment that the hike in prices of petrol and diesel will push up the prices of essential commodities, affecting all sections of the society, particularly the middle class and farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons for making such steep hike in prices of petrol and diesel;

(c) whether this rise would not have been necessary if Government had restricted the advalorem tax structure on import of petro projects;